

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

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By: **Delegate Beitzel**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2011

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Inclusion of Garrett County in the Baltimore and Washington, D.C.**
3 **Television Broadcast Market Areas**

4 FOR the purpose of expressing certain findings of the General Assembly in connection
5 with the ability of Garrett County residents to receive broadcasts from
6 Baltimore and Washington, D.C. television stations; and urging the Maryland
7 Delegation to Congress to encourage the Federal Communications Commission
8 to amend its market determination regulations and to sponsor and support any
9 necessary legislation in the United States Congress to allow Garrett County
10 residents to receive television broadcasts from stations in the Baltimore and
11 Washington, D.C. designated television broadcast market areas.

12 WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has regulatory
13 authority over cable and satellite television service; and

14 WHEREAS, Under federal law, cable and satellite television carriers must carry
15 the signals of local commercial broadcast television stations that request carriage in
16 counties that are designated by the FCC to be in the station's local television market
17 area; and

18 WHEREAS, Under federal law, cable and satellite television carriers are under
19 no obligation to carry the signals of commercial broadcast television stations located in
20 other television market areas that broadcast duplicate programming; and

21 WHEREAS, In some circumstances, cable and satellite television carriers are
22 prohibited by television network nonduplication or exclusivity agreements to carry the
23 signals of broadcast television stations located in another television market area; and

24 WHEREAS, The FCC has designated Garrett County, Maryland, to be in the
25 Pittsburgh television market area; and



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1 WHEREAS, As a consequence, cable and satellite television carriers in Garrett
2 County do not carry the signals of television stations located in the Baltimore and
3 Washington, D.C. designated market areas; and

4 WHEREAS, Garrett County residents are unable to view news coverage
5 relevant and important to them as Maryland residents, including coverage of
6 Maryland politics and elections of their public officials; and

7 WHEREAS, Garrett County residents are also unable to view sporting events
8 featuring their favorite teams broadcast on Baltimore and Washington, D.C. television
9 stations; and

10 WHEREAS, Numerous Garrett County residents have signed a petition
11 requesting that the FCC allow them to view Baltimore and Washington, D.C.
12 television stations; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
14 General Assembly finds it is in the best interest of the residents of Garrett County to
15 be able to view broadcasts from stations located in the Baltimore and Washington,
16 D.C. television market areas so that they may know what is happening in their own
17 state; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Maryland Delegation to Congress is urged to encourage
19 the FCC to amend its television market determination regulations and to sponsor and
20 support any necessary legislation in the United States Congress to allow Garrett
21 County residents to receive broadcasts from stations located in the Baltimore and
22 Washington, D.C. television market areas; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
24 Legislative Services to the Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland; the
25 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
26 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
28 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Barbara A.
29 Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;
30 and Representatives Andrew P. Harris, C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger III, John P.
31 Sarbanes, Donna Edwards, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E.
32 Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C.
33 20515; and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
35 Legislative Services to the Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman of the Federal
36 Communications Commission, 445 12th Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.